Development of agro-based industries

2273. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the measures taken and now contemplated by Government to push up agro-based industries which also have high export potential;

(b) whether Government have worked out or contemplating tax incentives for such industries with high labour intensive potential; and

(c) whether any overall perspective detailed plan has been worked out for the development of agro-based industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Government have extended the delicensing facility available to Monopoly and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP)|Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) companies for setting up certain food processing industries in Category 'A' backward districts to Categories 'B' and 'C' backward districts also. Broad-banding facility in the fruits and vegetable products industry and other processed foods industry falling under Serial Nos. 27(1) to 27(5) of the Schedule of the I (D&R) Act has also been introduced.

(b) Government have neither worked out nor contemplating any specific incentives relating to direct taxes for such industries which have high labour intensive potential.

(c) In the budget for 1989-90, a number of concessions in respect of excise duty and custom duty have been extended to the food processing industries.

Winding up of District Rural Development Agencies

2274. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) are being wound up;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether such a winding up is likely to affect the employees in DRDAs; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to provide alternate employment to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (d) While there is no proposal to wind up the DRDAs, there are suggestions for the merger of DRDAs with the Zila Parishad and infact, in one State they have already been merged with Zila Parishad.

Even where DRDAs do not continue as separate entities, Rural Development Programmes would continue to be implemented through an administrative structure capable of absorbing the services of existing DRDA employees. Therefore, there seems to be no reason for employees of DRDAs feeling insecure about their future. This has been brought to the notice of the State Governments also.

2275. [Transferred to the 7th August, 1989]

Incorrect water bills to consumers

2276. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the introduction of computer billing, the water bills for Delhi Municipal area are not correctly prepared and sent to consumers without any check with the result that the Government are losing several lakhs and also puting the consumers to unnecessary problems; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Delhi Water Supply & Sewage Disposal Undertaking has reported that there are

certain mistakes in the water bills, due to introduction of computerised billing system in new Delhi and South Zone but there is no loss to Government, due to computerisation.

(b) In order to streamline the system, in the second year of the computerised system of water billing the work was assigned to two agencies instead of one. The department has been in continuous touch with both the agencies to improve the system and eliminate the inaccuracies in billing.

Financial performance of Agro Industries Corporation

2277. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:
SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have urged the State Governments to take steps to improve the financial performance of Agro-Industries Corporations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Governments have been requested to review and monitor the working of Agro Industries Corporations with a view to improving their performance and making their operations commercially more profitable. The State Governments have also been advised to strengthen the resources of the Corporations so that they can expand and diversify their activities.

Employees State Insurance Scheme

2278. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:
SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enact a law providing for stringent penalties for employers who default in depositing under the Employees State Insurance Scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKRISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the proposed provisions are as given in the Employees' State Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 1989, which was passed by the Rajya Sabha on the 31st July, 1989.

Setting up of TV transmitter at Dhubri District of Assam

2279. SHRI DAVID LEDGER: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a TV Transmission Centre at Dhubri District of Assam;

(b) if so, whether the site for the transmission Centre has been selected;

(c) if not, whether Government propose to set up a high-power transmission centre in a centrally located place so as to cover four districts, namely, Barpeta, Goalpara, Kokrajhar and Dhubri; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (PROF. K. K. TEWARY): (a) Yes Sir. A low power (100W) TV transmitter is envisaged to be set up at Dhubri in Assam during the current financial year (1989-90).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Subletting in DIZ area and Baba Kharak Singh Marg

2280. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of URBAN